



CB05-FF.08
April 19, 2005

Father's Day: June 19

The idea of Father's Day was conceived by Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Wash., while she listened to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who was left to raise his six children by himself on a rural farm. June was chosen for the first Father's Day celebration — proclaimed for June 19, 1910, by Spokane's mayor — because it was the month of William Smart's birth. The first presidential proclamation honoring fathers was issued in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Father's Day has been celebrated annually since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent.

66.3 million

Estimated number of fathers across the nation today. (From unpublished data.)

Remembering Dad

- Neckties lead the list of Father's Day gifts. A good place to buy dad a tie or a shirt might be one of 10,416 men's clothing stores around the country.
<<http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html>>
- Other items high on the list of Father's Day gifts include those you may find in dad's toolbox, such as hammers, wrenches and screwdrivers. You could buy some of these items for dad at one of the nation's 14,755 hardware stores or 5,280 home centers.
<<http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html>>

23,018

Number of sporting goods stores. These stores are good places to purchase traditional gifts for dad such as fishing rods and golf clubs.

<<http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html>>

- Nearly 69 million Americans have participated in a barbeque in the last year — it's probably safe to assume many of these barbeques took place on Father's Day.
<<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-04.html>>, 2004-2005 edition, Table 1238.

Mr. Mom

98,000

Estimated number of “stay-at-home” dads. These are married fathers with children under 15 years old who have remained out of the labor force for more than one year primarily so they can care for the family while their wives work outside the home. Among these stay-at-home dads:

- 29 percent had their own children under 3 years old living with them.
- 63 percent had two or more children.
- 40 percent had an annual family income of \$50,000 or more.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

How Many Fathers?

26.5 million

Number of fathers who are part of married-couple families with their own children under the age of 18.

Among these —

- 21 percent are raising three or more of their own children under 18 years old.
- 11 percent are under 30.
- 5 percent are 55 and older.
- 2 percent live in the home of a relative or a nonrelative.
- 65 percent have an annual family income of \$50,000 or more.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

2.3 million

Number of single fathers, up from 393,000 in 1970. Currently, among single parents living with their children, 18 percent are men.

Among these fathers —

- 10 percent are raising three or more of their own children under 18 years old.

- 42 percent are divorced; 38 percent have never married; 15 percent are separated; and 5 percent are widowed. (The percentages of those divorced and never married are not significantly different from one another.)
- 15 percent live in the home of a relative or a nonrelative.
- 21 percent have an annual family income of \$50,000 or more.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

Child-Support 4.6 million

Number of fathers who provided child support. All in all, 84 percent of child-support providers are men, who provide median payments of \$3,600 annually.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/004012.html>

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 17) & African-American History Month (February)	Back to School (August)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)	Labor Day (Sept. 5)
Women's History Month (March)	Grandparents Day (Sept. 11)
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)	Halloween (Oct. 31)
Older Americans Month (May)	American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
Mother's Day (May 8)	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Father's Day (June 19)	Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24)
The Fourth of July (July 4)	The Holiday Season (December)
Anniversary of Americans With Disabilities Act (July 26)	

Editor's note: Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office at (301) 763-3030; fax (301) 457-3670; or e-mail <pio@census.gov>.